United Nations A/67/511

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 October 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 53
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Report by the Secretary-General*

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/76.

2. In line with paragraph 8 of resolution 66/76, the Secretariat continued to provide the necessary facilities and staff to support the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. The Special Committee was directly supported in the fulfilment of its mandate by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Information Centre in Cairo, the Department of Safety and Security, the Department of Public Information and offices of the United Nations Resident Coordinators in Egypt and Jordan. In addition, the Special Committee engaged with the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

3. Much of this support was related to the Special Committee's annual investigative mission to the region. In the light of Israel's continuing practice of non-cooperation with it, the Special Committee was not able to visit the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, during its investigations. However, the Special Committee carried out a mission to the occupied Palestinian territory, specifically the Gaza Strip, by crossing Egypt's border with Gaza. Meetings in the Gaza Strip took place from 14 to 17 July 2012 and included field visits throughout Gaza. The Special Committee convened meetings in Jordan from 11 to 13 July 2012 and in Egypt from

* The present report is being submitted late in order to allow maximum time for Member States, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and human rights defenders to submit relevant information.

12-54364 (E) 171012

Please recycle

18 to 19 July 2012. Owing to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Special Committee engaged with interlocutors in the occupied Syrian Golan by way of teleconference. During its mission, the Special Committee collected testimony and information from 66 victims, witnesses, officials and representatives of organizations working to document and prevent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the occupied territories. This testimony is recorded in the Special Committee's report, to be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

Department of Public Information

4. Pursuant to paragraph 8 (d) of resolution 66/76, the following activities were undertaken by the Department of Public Information.

5. The Department of Public Information continued to ensure that news and information about the activities of the Special Committee were disseminated widely and in a timely manner. The Special Committee's meetings and statements were covered by press releases in English and French, all issued within hours of the conclusion of a meeting or the release of a statement.

6. The English and French versions of the United Nations News Centre website provided coverage of the activities of the Special Committee during the reporting period. Articles were posted online, e-mailed to more than 40,000 subscribers and further disseminated on Facebook, Twitter and through RSS feeds to media aggregators around the world.

7. United Nations Radio, which is available in all six official languages as well as in Kiswahili and Portuguese, provided regular coverage of issues and events associated with the Special Committee. This included reports and feature stories about the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, the activities of Special Rapporteurs visiting the region, and the overall economic, social and human rights conditions of people living in the occupied Palestinian territory.

8. United Nations Television and Video produced a video on women's economic development in the occupied Palestinian territory that aired as part of the *UN in Action* series and was distributed to 60 international broadcasters. United Nations Television and Video also completed filming on a story on youth empowerment in the occupied Palestinian territory that will be broadcast as part of its news magazine programme *21st Century*, as well as part of the *UN in Action* series, and distributed to more than 80 broadcasters.